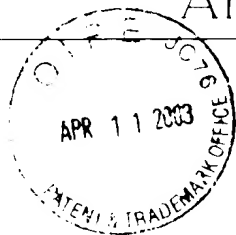


ARNOLD & PORTER



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555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

April 11, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Box Non-Fee Amendment

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09 849,529
Filed: May 7, 2001
Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants**
Inventors: Karen L. FINCHER *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16517.247

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

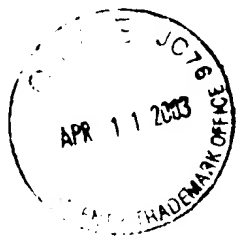
1. Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed January 13, 2003; and
2. Return postcard.

Please stamp the postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16517.247. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Holly Logue Prutz".



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Karen L. FINCHER *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09 849,529

Filed: May 7, 2001

For: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with Plants**

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Michael L. BORIN

Atty. Docket: 16517.247

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APR 11 2003
TECH CENTER 1600-2900

Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed January 13, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Box Non-Fee Amendment

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2003 (Paper Number 10),
Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.